

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 12834 311502Z

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ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IN

SUBJECT: G.K. REDDY ARTICLE ON CHINESE SUPPORT FOR INDIAN CANDIDACY

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI FROM MADRAS AUG 31 REPEATED:

QUOTE

MADRAS 1577

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IN

SUBJECT: G K REDDY ARTICLE ON CHINESE SUPPORT FOR INDIAN
CANDIDACY

THERE IS QUOTED BELOW IN ITS ENTIRETY THE G.K. REDDY
ARTICLE ENTITLED "CHINA SUPPORTS INDIA FOR SECURITY
COUNCIL SEAT" IN THE HINDU OF AUGUST 31.

QUOTE

THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE, MR. CHEN CHAO-YUAN,
IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN DELHI IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS
AND PRESENT HIS CREDENTIALS WELL BEFORE OCTOBER 1 TO
MAKE HIS FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE AT THE EMBASSY'S
NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION.

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 12834 311502Z

AS A HAPPY AUGURY TO THE RESERVATION OF AMBASSADOR-

LEVEL REPRESENTATION, CHINA HAS FALLEN IN LINE WITH THE REST OF THE ASIAN GROUP IN THE UNITED NATIONS IN SUPPORTING INDIA'S CANDIDATURE FOR ONE OF THE TWO ASIAN SEATS ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO BE VACATED BY JAPAN ON COMPLETION OF ITS TWO-YEAR TERM.

AT THE ASIAN GROUP MEETING IN NEW YORK ON AUGUST 16, WHICH INCIDENTIALLY WAS PRESIDED OVER BY THE BANGLADESH REPRESENTATIVE, CHINA WENT ALONG WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS IN SUPPORTING JAPAN'S SUGGESTION THAT INDIA SHOULD BE NOMINATED FOR THIS SEAT. THE OTHER TWO COUNTRIES IN THE FIELD, THE PHILLIPPINES AND MONGOLIA, WITHDREW IN INDIA'S FAVOR AFTER SEVERAL COUNTRIES SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF ITS CANDIDATURE.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NORMAL PRACTICE, THE BANGLADESH CHAIRMAN OF THE 34-MEMBER ASIAN GROUP HAS FORMALLY NOTIFIED THE OTHER REGIONAL GROUPS OF ITS DECISION TO NOMINATE INDIA FOR THE ASIAN SEAT IN PLACE OF JAPAN. SO INDIA WILL BE ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT ANY CONTEST THIS TIME WITH CHINA ALSO SUPPORTING IT. THIS WILL BE A REFRESHING BREAK FROM WHAT HAPPENED LAST YEAR WHEN THE ASIAN GROUP WAS BADLY DIVIDED AND CHINA LINED UP WITH THE UNITED STATES AND OTHERS IN OPPOSING INDIA'S CANDIDATURE.

AN INTERESTING FEATURE OF LAST YEAR'S CONTEST FOR THE ASIAN SEAT VACATED BY SYRIA WAS THAT AT LEAST 15 OF THE 42 ISLAMIC COUNTRIES VOTED FOR INDIA DESPITE PAKISTAN'S ATTEMPTS TO EXPLOIT THE RELIGIOUS FACTOR IN ITS FAVOUR. BUT AN UNFORTUNATE FACTOR THAT TILTED THE SCALES AGAINST INDIA WAS THAT, DESPITE THE DECISION TAKEN AT THE LIMA CONFERENCE THAT THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE BETTER REPRESENTATION FOR THE COMMUNITY AT THE UNITED NATIONS, MANY OF THEM YIELDED TO THE BIG POWER PRESSURES AND VOTED FOR PAKISTAN. SOME OF THE WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ALSO WENT BACK ON THEIR EARLIER PROMISES WITH THE RESULT THAT INDIA HAD TO FINALLY WITHDRAW FROM THE CONTEST IN THE FACE OF AN OPEN DEADLOCK AND LET PAKISTAN HAVE THE SEAT.

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PAGE 03 NEW DE 12834 311502Z

BUT THERE HAS BEEN A DRAMATIC CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR'S POSITION. THE CHINA FACTOR ALSO PLAYED ITS PART IN AVOIDING A CONTEST THIS TIME. THE PHILLIPPINES WHICH NOT ONLY REFUSED TO WITHDRAW FROM LAST YEAR'S ELECTION BUT HAS BEEN INSISTING ON CONTESTING AGAIN, HAS WITHDRAWN IN INDIA'S FAVOUR IN THE LIGHT OF THESE NEW DEVELOPMENTS. AFTER MONGOLIA ALSO STEPPED DOWN, INDIA WAS THE ONLY CANDIDATE LEFT ON BEHALF OF THE ASIAN GROUP FOR FILLING THE VACANCY IN PLACE OF JAPAN.

BUT THE SINO-INDIAN THAW HAS NOT REACHED THE STAGE WHEN THE
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER COULD HAVE PASSED THROUGH CHINA
ON HIS VISIT TO MONGOLIA NEXT WEEK. HE IS OBLIGED TO TAKE
THE CIRCUITOUS ROUTE VIA MOSCOW AND TRAVEL ALL THE WAY
ACROSS SIBERIA TO REACH ULAN BATOR. AND TO ADD TO HIS DISMAY,
THE AEROFLOT FLIGHT BY WHICH HE HAS DUE TO LEAVE FOR MOSCOW ON
SEPTEMBER 3 HAS BEEN CANCELLED, WITH THE RESULT THAT HE WILL
HAVE TO GO ALL THE WAY TO FRANKFURT BY AIR-INDIA TO GET A
CONNECTING FLIGHT. UNQUOTE. SIGNED MCCASKILL

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